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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Switzerland, United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay: draft resolution

Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 63/142 of 11 December 2008,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[5] and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[6]

Reaffirming the importance of the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

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Recognizing also, in this regard, that access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business are mutually reinforcing and essential components in the effective eradication of poverty,

Stressing in this context the importance of the applicable international human rights instruments,

Reaffirming that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Stressing that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieve equitable and effective development and to foster a vibrant economy, and reaffirming its commitment to eliminate gender-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the labour and financial markets, as well as, inter alia, in the ownership of assets and property rights, and to promote women's rights, including their economic empowerment, and effectively mainstream gender in law reforms, business support services and economic programmes, and give women full and equal access to economic resources,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, entitled *Making the Law Work for Everyone*,[8] as a useful reference to guide policy dialogue and action at the international and national levels, bearing in mind the importance of national circumstances, ownership and leadership;

3. *Takes note* of the broad diversity of national experiences in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, recognizes the initiatives taken and progress made by countries, including developing countries, in advancing legal empowerment of the poor as an integral part of their development strategies and objectives, and stresses the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices;

4. *Welcomes* in this regard the ongoing work of the United Nations funds and programmes as well as of the specialized agencies;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of access to justice by the poor and in this regard encourages the strengthening and improvement of the administration of justice and identity and birth registration systems, as well as awareness-raising concerning existing legal rights;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the rule of law and property rights, and pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, encourage business formation, including entrepreneurship, empowerment and poverty eradication;

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[7] A/64/133.

[8] Available from www.undp.org/LegalEmpowerment/reports/concept2action.html.

7. *Reiterates* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at respective national levels to promote employment and decent work for all and to protect labour rights, including through respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work proclaimed by the International Labour Organization as a foundation for building the legal codes and collective agreements needed to effectively govern labour markets and workplaces;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at respective national levels to promote a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector as a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, and encourages the promotion of an enabling environment that facilitates entrepreneurship and doing business by all, including women, the poor and the vulnerable;

9. *Encourages* countries to promote the four pillars of legal empowerment of the poor, namely, access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business by incorporating these dimensions into their national development policies and strategies and making them an integral part of their eradication of poverty efforts;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty, and upon countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in promoting legal empowerment of the poor through adequate, predictable financial resources or technical assistance, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and in this regard, recognizes the important contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote stronger coherence and coordination of the United Nations system in integrating the dimensions of access to justice, property, labour and entrepreneurship into policies and strategies to eradicate poverty;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the background documentation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010, to duly take into account the present resolution;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of this resolution, under the item entitled "Eradication of poverty and other development issues", taking into account national experiences and the views of Member States in this regard.